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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 42 and 166

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 30 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to draw your attention to the latest incidents in the ongoing campaign of Palestinian terrorism directed against the citizens of Israel.

At approximately 1 p.m. (local time) today, a suicide bomber entered a popular falafel stand on a busy street in downtown Jerusalem, detonating his explosives amongst diners. Seven civilians were wounded in the attack. It was only due to the fact that the explosive device detonated prematurely that the cost in human suffering was not greater. The bomber was identified as Majed Atta from Beit Jalla, aged 17, and a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, part of Chairman Arafat's own Fatah movement, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Earlier in the day, two brothers, Shlomo and Mordechai Odesar, were shot and killed at close range by masked Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank village of Jammai'n. The brothers, truck-drivers by profession, had come to the village to supply fuel to a local cement factory. Again, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade of Chairman Arafat's Fatah movement claimed responsibility for the attack.

Also today, at 3 a.m. (local time), a Palestinian terrorist infiltrated the community of Itamar, stabbing and seriously wounding a husband and wife while they slept in their bed. This attack comes a month and a half after the previous infiltration into Itamar, during which Palestinian terrorists killed five civilians, including a mother and her three young sons.

This list of grave terrorist attacks, perpetrated in a single day, would have been longer were it not for the efforts of Israeli security forces. In the past week alone, 12 attempted terrorist attacks have been thwarted, including several suicide bombers who have been apprehended en route to civilian areas in Israel.

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The fact that Chairman Arafat's own Fatah movement continues to perpetrate and support acts of terrorism against innocent civilians should disabuse anyone of the notion that there is any genuine attempt by the current Palestinian leadership to bring an end to the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign. Condemnations issued to placate international audiences cannot obscure the fact that the Palestinian Authority, and its 40,000 strong police force, have failed to take any genuine measures against Palestinian terrorist groups freely operating in its territory. Known terrorist operatives continue to be granted safe harbour and free movement; illegal weapons have not been confiscated; and incitement to hatred and violence, including the glorification of suicide attacks against Israeli men, women and children, continues unabated.

It is the abject refusal of the Palestinian Authority to live up to its legal and moral obligations to end terrorism and incitement that have compelled Israel to take defensive measures to protect its civilians from gruesome daily attacks. If the Palestinian leadership were to join international efforts to comprehensively root out terrorism, rather than condone and support such acts, Israeli measures would be unnecessary.

The international community has affirmed that acts of terrorism directed at innocent civilians can never be justified and pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It is high time that the Palestinian Authority was held accountable for its involvement in these heinous crimes, which have devastating repercussions for both Israelis and Palestinians. It is the endless wave of brutal Palestinian terrorist attacks against innocent civilians, conducted with the support of the current Palestinian leadership, which undermines any prospects at a genuine dialogue aimed at achieving peace and security for both peoples.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, as well as under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/1017

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 30, 97 and 98

Oceans and the law of the sea

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 26 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the joint letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to the United Nations, which has been circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/56/927), I have the honour to communicate to you the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the legal regime of the Caspian Sea, as follows:

The legal regime governing the Caspian Sea has been provided for in the Treaty of Amity concluded between Iran and Russia on 26 February 1921, as well as the Iran-USSR Commerce and Navigation Agreement of 25 March 1940 and the letters attached thereto. In accordance with the norms and principles of customary international law, as codified in article 12 of the 1978 Vienna Convention on the Succession of States in Respect of Treaties (see *Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of ICJ*, 1997, p. 72), the above-mentioned treaties are binding on all successor States of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Moreover, these States have agreed to fulfil the international obligations deriving from treaties and agreements concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see article 12 of the Agreement Establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed on 8 December 1991 at the city of Minsk, and its Protocol, as well as the Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 21 December 1991).

It should be emphasized that, in accordance with the principle of unanimity, as agreed by the Ministerial Meeting of the Coastal States of the Caspian Sea on 12 November 1996, at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the Coastal States are required to avoid taking any action contrary to the said principle.

02-50348 (E) 310702

Moreover, the sovereign rights cannot be exercised, unilaterally or through a bilateral agreement, by the coastal States of the Caspian Sea as mentioned in the joint letter of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, since the Caspian Sea has a legal regime contained in the said Treaties, since it is shared by all its coastal States, and since these States have already agreed to apply unanimity with respect to supplementing the existing regime of the Sea and consequently to avoid any unilateral or bilateral action. Such measures inevitably contravene the sovereign rights of other coastal States, have adverse and long-term effects on the environment of the Caspian Sea, and thus are not acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is essential that all decisions concerning the Caspian Sea be taken with the consent of all its coastal States, as agreed at their Ministerial Meeting in 1996, as well as at the Summit Meeting at Ashgabat in 2002.

It should be recalled that the general agreement of all coastal States of a given lake is the only principle that applies to the delimitation of international lakes. In view of the fact that the Caspian Sea is a unique international lake, and that the existing instruments do not contain any provision regarding the drawing up of boundaries at the Sea, supplementing its legal regime though bilateral agreement contravenes the said principle, the existing regime of the Sea, and the understanding reached at the summit level among the coastal States.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers such bilateral measures as unhelpful steps, which delay the supplementing of the legal regime of the Caspian Sea. In its view, a comprehensive and acceptable regime governing the Caspian Sea can only be achieved through negotiations among the five coastal States. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran invites all the coastal States to continue to be committed to arriving at decisions which will be acceptable to all littoral States of the Sea and to avoid bilateral actions.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 97 and 98.

(*Signed*) Mohammad Hassan **Fadaifard**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/1018–S/2002/859

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1 August 2002

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 42 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 1 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to inform you of the latest horrific attack perpetrated in the ongoing campaign of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israel.

During lunchtime yesterday, a bomb exploded in a crowded cafeteria at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The blast killed 7 people and injured 86 others, at least 14 seriously. Four of those killed were American nationals and one was a dual French and American national, while most of the injured were local and foreign university students between the ages of 18 and 30. The explosion ripped through the cafeteria, causing part of the ceiling to collapse. Witnesses described horrendous scenes with tens of people lying on the ground wailing in pain, covered in blood, with clothes and flesh torn apart. The terrorist organization Hamas rushed to claim responsibility for the attack, declaring that it was "part of a series of responses that will take a long time and teach all Israelis" and staged celebratory processions in Gaza City and Shechem (Nablus).

The fact that this organization would deliberately target an institution of higher learning attended by students from around the world, and a place where Jewish and Arab students mix freely and study together, is testimony to the depravity of Hamas and its utter disregard for the sanctity of human life. Indeed, Hamas and other terrorist groups operating in Palestinian Authority territory continue to show no more concern for the civilians they use to hide amongst than they do for those they deliberately target for murder.

In other terrorist incidents, the bound body of a 27-year-old Israeli man who had been shot in the head at zero range was found today in the Gashuri industrial zone, near Tulkarm. Marks on the victim's neck indicted that he had been hanged before being shot. According to assessments by security officials, the perpetrators had taken advantage of the removal of the restrictions on movement that had been imposed by Israel in Tulkarm in the wake of recent terrorist attacks, so as to commit

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the killing and then escape back into Palestinian Authority territory. In addition, yesterday, Israeli security forces discovered an explosives laboratory, including over 300 kg of TATP explosives, housed, of all places, in the Palestinian Legislative Council building of the Palestinian Authority in Jenin.

While rogue States such as Syria, Iran and Iraq continue to praise and support despicable acts of murder by Palestinian terrorists, responsible members of the international community have condemned these terrorist attacks against innocent civilians and called on the Palestinian Authority to, once and for all, live up to its signed commitments to root out terrorism in its territory, consistent with the global campaign against terrorism, international law and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

However, the Palestinian Authority, while paying lip-service to the fight against terrorism to appease international public opinion, has steadfastly refused to take even minimal measures to bring an end to the terror, to confiscate illegal weapons and to cease incitement to hatred and violence, in clear violation of its legal commitments as well as Security Council resolutions 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002) and 1403 (2002).

On the contrary, the Palestinian leadership continues to condone and support such massacres. Hamas, an organization internationally recognized as a terrorist group which is committed to Israel's destruction, has for years been treated by the Palestinian Authority as a legitimate partner and ally. The Palestinian leadership has given the organization free rein in Palestinian Authority territory and its operatives, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians, are assured safe harbour and free movement by Palestinian security forces.

In the light of the refusal of the Palestinian Authority, and its 40,000-strong security force, to take the necessary measures against such terrorist groups, Israel is compelled to conduct defensive operations so as to protect its citizens. We call on the international community to denounce not only the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian groups, but also the continued support and criminal involvement of the current Palestinian leadership in such acts and their refusal to prevent such atrocities, for which they must be held fully accountable. Only an end to the campaign of Palestinian terrorism, with its terrible cost in Israeli and Palestinian lives, can ensure that the hope for a future of security, peace and dignity for both peoples will be restored.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, as well as under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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2 August 2002

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 2 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the allegations and fabrications contained in the Israeli representative's letter of 8 July 2002 (A/56/1001-S/2002/743), and a number of other preceding letters containing similar allegations, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

Contrary to the allegations levelled in the said letters, the Islamic Republic of Iran provides only humanitarian, political and moral support to those who have mounted legitimate and internationally recognized resistance to the occupation of their land by the Israeli regime.

Israeli operatives have clearly speeded up the circulation of a succession of rumours and unrestrained official fantasies in the months that followed the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001, cynically trying to benefit from the tragedy that befell the American people. In the context of a political and media campaign here and there, they attempt to deceive as many hawkish elements as possible into taking on Iran, thus undermining moral support to those who resist their occupation of the Arab lands. Based on what the Israelis fantasize, one day Iran stations its Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon, another day it sets up and runs training camps in the Bekaa, then it deploys 10,000 Katyusha rockets on Lebanese territory and so on and so forth!

The Israeli propaganda ploy is part of a multi-pronged, ill-conceived strategy aimed at escaping mounting pressure from the resistance against the occupation and world public opinion. However, throughout history, no occupying Power could ever rest and shield itself from the rage of those under its occupation. And, undoubtedly, the Israeli regime is no exception to this general and age-tested rule. Therefore, no amount of mud-slinging can in any way blur the very reality that the Israeli regime feeds on what it has forcefully snatched from others and struggles in vain to hold on to what it illegally and illegitimately grasped.

02-50763 (E) 050802

As to the nature of those who level such irresponsible allegations against my country, suffice it to recall the latest major war crime of the Israeli regime, when it deliberately targeted innocent civilians in a pre-dawn aerial raid on 23 July, firing a one-ton bomb from a F-16 jet fighter into a tightly packed residential neighbourhood in Gaza.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad H. **Fadaifard**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/1020

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 63
Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letter dated 31 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to keep on the agenda of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

My Government would like this item to be considered in plenary meeting, without reference to a Main Committee.

My Government reiterates its wish that this question should remain on the agenda of all future regular sessions of the General Assembly until it is definitively settled.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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